



Winter, 2003

Volume 6, Number 3

Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

Mark Your Calendars!

Meetings and Academy Scheduled for February and March

ACS Winter Meeting

WHEN: Saturday, February 22, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. until noon

WHERE: The meeting will be held in the Training Room of the Seattle Public Utilities Operations Control Center, 2700 Airport Way South. This is a secure facility. Park on the street or use the lot to the north of the building. Please come to the main door located behind the Water Pipe sculpture fountain near the northwest corner of the building. Please arrive between 8:30 and 8:50 a.m. so we can get started and not attend the door - thank you. If you must arrive late, call (206) 510-7118. We will also monitor 146.56 simplex, tone 103.5 Hz.

WHY: The purpose of this drill is to practice sending and receiving messages, and to practice net control protocols. Before the drill, participants should develop a minimum of three (3) emergency messages using the standard ACS message form. You can download the message form from the ACS website (<http://www.cityofseattle.net/eoc/acs/mtg022203.htm>). If you cannot access the message form on the web, please get in touch with the editor (*phone number and email address on page 2 of QRV?*) and the forms will be mailed to you. Two of the messages should be worded to represent messages from the field incoming to the net. One of the messages should be worded as a message from net control out to the net.

At the meeting, we will use those messages to conduct an emergency drill. To simplify the process we won't be on the air. The drill will proceed as follows:

1. One person is selected to stand at the podium and be net control. Net control starts the net following a script. When net control asks for emergency traffic, all participants give their call signs.
2. Net control selects one participant to read one message. All participants, including net control, will attempt to write down the traffic correctly.
3. Net control will then send one message to the net. All participants will attempt to copy the traffic correctly.
4. We will then halt the drill and discuss the above steps, noting what went smoothly and what did not.

After these steps we will continue the drill as above with a new participant as net control. We'll stop after each round for a discussion as necessary. We want to allow everyone to have a chance practicing as net control.

We will also discuss many important topics including this year's training exercise, the new 9600 Kbps TCP/IP packets system and our membership plan. Identification photos will be taken.

See **Events**, page 4

QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle
Emergency Management

ACS Net & Disaster Coordination
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

ACS Primary Message Channels
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

ACS 6 Meter Frequency
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

ACS Website
www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

State & County Nets
Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.985 MHz

--
King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the
Auxiliary Communication Service to:
Mark Sheppard, N7LYE
ACS Manager
Seattle EOC
2320 4th Avenue,
Seattle, Wa. 98121-1718
voice - 206 684 5027
FAX - 206 470 6715
mark.sheppard@ci.seattle.wa.us

--
Please direct letters, articles, and
inquiries about QRV? to the editor:
Peter Smith N7BYP
(206) 284-2098
n7byp@arrl.net

From the Editor

Alerts

I'm sure you heard it. It was all over the news the other day. The Office of Homeland Security had increased the U.S. threat condition from "yellow" (elevated) to "orange" (high). I've been thinking about this in connection with our emergency communications mission and organization. Exactly what does this mean for ACS? How might changes in national threat levels affect our preparedness?

Should we re-check the level of our batteries? Should we lay in a new supply of drinking water? Should we practice more at sending and receiving messages? Well, in my case at least, the answer is no. I haven't done *more* of these or any other preparedness activities as a result of the increased level of alert. I'm guessing that if I were to ask you your answer would be pretty much the same.

Whether they're red, orange, yellow, blue or green, alert levels don't affect our preparedness greatly because we must be well prepared *regardless* of those levels of alert. Long before terrorist attack was recognized as a possibility we prepared for natural events that could lead to disastrous consequences. You know what I mean, the "big one." The earthquake that we all know will hit sooner or later and cause massive damage and, of course, communications disruptions.

If any good can come from the prospect of dealing with earthquakes, perhaps it is this: earthquake preparedness forces us to maintain a relatively high state of preparedness all the time. Not sometimes. *Always*. Earthquake preparedness has led us to be ready for all manner of disasters, whether they stem from natural or manmade causes.

In this issue of QRV? you will learn about the winter ACS meeting. You'll also read about the upcoming Communications Academy 2003. Both events will afford us unique and valuable opportunities to improve upon our communications skills. Needless to say, it's essential that we support these events in order to maintain that high state of preparedness. Let's each of us make attendance at these and other training events our highest priority. ■■■■■

From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director
Seattle Emergency Management

It is difficult at times to write this column, and not just because I am trying to avoid repetitive comments. Often, my difficulty is selecting which quarterly event merits attention, to the exclusion of others.

This edition it is a bit easier. While there are many things we could discuss, the international situation and the prospects of terrorist attack seem to dwarf most other topics.

As you may well imagine, the City has been preparing for any set of circumstances that might occur. There is very good coordination among City agencies, and regionally our interactions are mutually supportive and positive. It's a good thing, because whatever your views may be, we are all in this experiment in democracy together. The protection of our population is everyone's affair.

If the need arises, or, by the time you read this, has arisen, for our emergency readiness and response plan to be activated, you will be ready. Your training and dedication to maintaining proficiency as ACS members is an asset that we knew we could count on.

Of one thing we can be sure: this is not the last time that we will experience intense preparations. Nor is it guaranteed that a human-caused event will precipitate the implementation of our disaster plan. So, while one possible trigger that could cause activation of the EOC and of the ACS function remains uppermost in our minds, a natural disaster is always a possibility as well.

That is why we always try to remain vigilant: we aren't really going to know what event will trigger our response. We just know that we have to remain ready for anything. As one of the late comedienne Gilda Radner's characters used to say: "It's always something, or else it's another thing." She was right.

Whatever the "next thing" is, we need to stay ready. This particular crisis will pass eventually, but the need for alertness and training will always remain part of our mode of operation.

Thanks for sticking with it. You are good company in a tough situation. ■■■■■

Foxtrotter Antenna Review

By Clarke Stockwell, WA7BVQ

Editor's Note: Clarke Stockwell, WA7BVQ, sends this review of the antenna he brought to the Autumn ACS meeting.

Here is the plan for the antenna I brought to the ACS Field Exercise Meeting. The name on the plan calls it a "Foxtrotter." I recall the name "Scout Walking Stick" also but it is not on the plan sheet. I tried to find it on the web but no luck with my search (*note: I also could not locate the Foxtrotter on the web, nor was KE6BVF in the FCC license database-ed.*), I'm glad I printed it out when I did. That was back in March 1998. I have built a couple of them and they work great. They are rugged and light. You can fasten a line to the end of the stick and haul it up in a tree to gain elevation. It has great performance over a rubber duck but then again what doesn't?

Foxtrotter

KE6BVF Mel

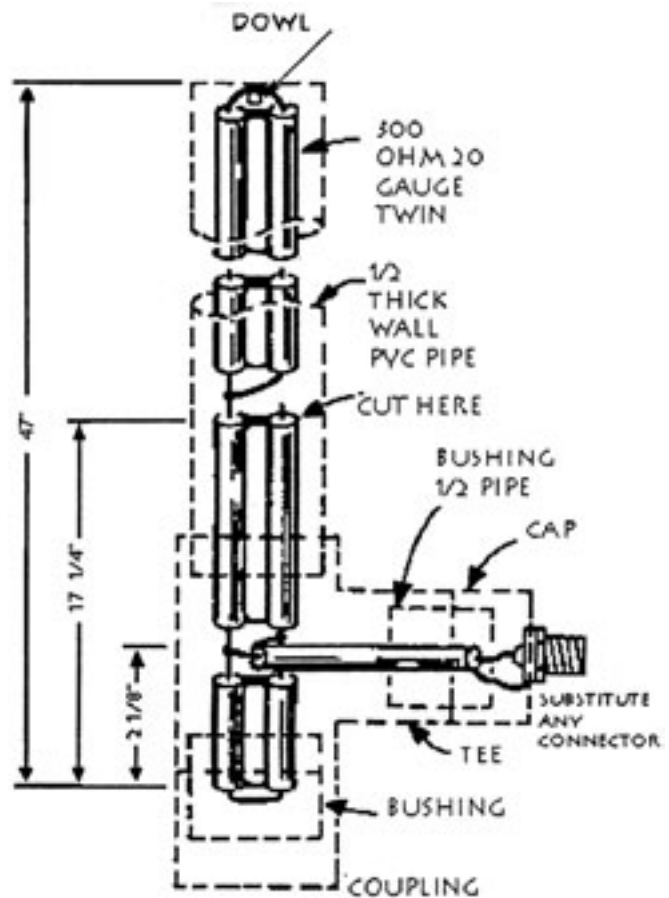
IDEAL EMERGENCY & DISASTER
FIELD ANTENNA

1/2 WAVE RADIATING ELEMENT END
FED BY A QUARTER WAVE MATCHING
SECTION.

- very easy to use
- cost under \$3.00
- based on roll-up j-pole
- shorter than j-pole
- can be mounted or hung
- no ground plane needed
- 4 dB over 1/4 wave
- rugged construction
- rv or marine use
- store under car seat

PARTS LIST

- 1 - 10 foot length of 1/2 thick wall pvc pipe
- 2 - 1/2 inch pvc end caps
- 1 - 1/2 inch pvc tee
- 1 - 1/2 inch pvc coupling
- 1 - 1/2 inch x 1 inch piece of dowel
- 4 foot length of 300 ohm 20 guage twin lead
- Single hole rear-mount S0-239 socket
- 6 - 6 X 3/8 stainless steel self-tapping screws



WHEN: Tuesday, March 4, 2003 - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: The meeting will be held at the Southwest Community Center, 2801 SW Thistle St. Take the West Seattle Bridge exit from I-5 and then the Delridge Way exit, heading south. Turn right on SW Thistle. The Center is on the south side of the street.

WHY: The purpose of this meeting is to meet new members, provide an overview of the mission and role of Seattle ACS and discuss posts and assignments.

Additional information on acs website (<http://www.cityofseattle.net/eoc/acs/mtg030403.htm>)

Communications Academy 2003

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday March 22-23, 2003 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Shoreline Conference Center, 18560 1st Avenue N.E., Shoreline, WA.

WHAT: This year the Academy will have sessions on emergency management, regional and national hazards, ARRL Emergency Communications Course, communications protocols, technical demonstrations, field communications practice, and much more.

HOW: Preregistration is requested for planning purposes Please see the website (www.commacademy.org) or call 206.524.6567. Those who register before March 11 may attend for \$7.50 per day. The registration fee increases to \$10.00 per day for those who register between March 12 and 20. Those who register at the conference will pay \$15.00 per day.

Additional information on the web at www.commacademy.org

QRV? - Seattle ACS
Office of Emergency Management
Seattle Police Department
2320 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1718